

CROKER OUT AS NEW YORK FIRE CHIEF

Quits the Service After 27 Years on a Pension of \$6,000 a Year.

ANNOUNCES HIS PLANS.

Will Head New National Bureau for the Prevention of Fires.

Edward F. Croker, chief of the New York Fire Department, with which he had been connected for twenty-seven years, resigned at noon today.

His resignation was accepted and Commissioner Waldo placed acting Chief John Kenyon in charge of the department. Acting Chief Kenyon has recently been deputy chief in charge of the Marine Bureau, with headquarters at Pier A, Battery Park. He will serve as acting chief for about six months, when an examination of the fifteen eligible deputy chiefs will be held.

Mr. Croker, in a typewritten statement, which he had prepared in advance of handing in his resignation, announces his intention of engaging in the work of fire prevention by means of a Bureau of Fire Prevention, national in its scope, the headquarters of which are to be in this city. The plan has the approval of Fire Commissioner Waldo, Mayor Gaynor and the fire underwriting interests.

To Employ Retired Firemen.

It contemplates the employment of retired firemen as watchmen and fire drill masters. The details of the plan have not been worked out, but Mr. Croker will be in shape to make them public in a couple of days.

"I resigned from the Fire Department," said the former Chief, "of my own free will. There was no friction between me and Commissioner Waldo. The friendliest feeling prevails between us. I have had this step in contemplation for some time, as the need of fire prevention grew more apparent to me, but my determination to devote myself to fire prevention was really brought to a focus by the Ash Building fire."

Commissioner Waldo was informed on Saturday that the Chief of the department wanted to get out. The Commissioner's information reached him in the shape of the following communication:

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN, April 14.

Rhinelander Waldo, Fire Commissioner.

Sir: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 730 of the Charter of New York City, and in compliance therewith, I hereby respectfully make application to be retired and dismissed from the uniformed force and service and placed on the roll of the retired or pension fund, and awarded and granted an annual pension amounting to one-half my present salary for the remainder of my lifetime, the same to take effect at a certain A. M. on May 1, 1911. Respectfully,

EDWARD F. CROKER, Chief of Department.

Pension Will Be \$6,000.

The salary of Mr. Croker as chief of the Department was \$10,000 a year. This salary was specially fixed for him recently when the salary of Deputy Chief Lally, in charge of Brooklyn and Queens, was set at \$6,500.

Under the rule of pensions amounting to half salary, Mr. Croker would get \$5,000 a year, but Commissioner Waldo has fixed his pension at \$6,000, with the approval of the Mayor. It is in the power of the Commissioner to increase the mandatory pension provided by law.

Mr. Croker was an early arrival at the City Hall this morning, reaching there some time before Mayor Gray arrived. The Chief was shown into an anteroom of the Mayor's office. He was joined there by Fire Commissioner Waldo, and they remained together until Mayor Gaynor gave them an audience. The Mayor had been advised in advance of what he was to expect.

Commissioner Waldo handed Chief Croker's resignation to the Mayor, who expressed deep regret at the necessity for accepting it, took the retiring Chief by the hand and wished him success in his new venture. In giving out the news of the retirement, Commissioner Waldo said:

"It is with extreme regret that I have accepted Chief Croker's request to be retired. I have the greatest admiration for him as a Chief of Department, a fire fighter and a man. The city of New York sustains a loss in the severance of the relations between Edward F. Croker and the Fire Department."

Mr. Croker then handed out his typewritten statement containing his reasons for retiring from active fire fighting. The statement follows:

Takes Up Cherished Duty.

It is only after long and careful consideration that I have decided to tender my resignation and retire as Chief of the New York Fire Department. While such action on my part is accompanied by feelings of the deepest regret, at separating from the brave and splendid body of officers and men forming the Fire Department of this city, which has been and always will be my special pride, I feel that I have a special duty to perform toward the public which has so long honored the work of support and service of the Fire Department.

My long experience in the Fire Department of this city, which has been and always will be my special pride, I feel that I have a special duty to perform toward the public which has so long honored the work of support and service of the Fire Department.

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Ex-Fire Chief and Acting Successor.



ACTING FIRE CHIEF HERO MEDAL WINNER.

Acting Chief Kenyon, the new head of the Fire Department, was awarded a medal for bravery on April 7.

In the big fire in Pier Nos. 14 and 15, North River, on July 16, 1910, Kenyon, with Battalion Chief Worth, three firemen and a pilot, ran a fireboat into a maelstrom of fire and smoke and rescued two men who were in the water clinging to the supports of one of the burning piers. All the men engaged in this piece of rescue work were blistersed by the intense heat.

Kenyon was appointed to the Department, after leaving the United States Navy, in 1887. May 1, 1909, he was made a deputy chief and placed in charge of the Marine Division, where he has remained ever since. He is fifty-one years old.

fighting and fire extinguishing organizations of our great modern cities have reached a high state of efficiency and are keeping well abreast of the demands made upon them, our citizens have been paying too little attention to the vital matter of fire prevention, of which I have been for years a consistent advocate.

The enormous fire waste in the United States, exceeding \$200,000,000 a year, and the vastly greater indirect losses which result seriously affect our economic and civic progress.

The loss of lives by fire is one which cannot be measured in dollars nor expressed in words, and which cannot be realized save by those who have seen the flames devour the friends and families of many of our citizens.

Fire Can Be Prevented.

It has been my observation that a large majority of fires arise from preventable causes, and that if proper fire prevention methods were applied there would be a tremendous decrease in the fire waste, a loss to the inexperienced almost incomprehensible.

We have no department of our government devoted to the matter of fire prevention. Our laws on the subject are not and cannot be specialized to completely cover any particular building or business, although they can be made broad enough in their general application to go a great way toward partly solving the problem. It must become either the duty or opportunity of some other agency to complete the picture by the enactment of regulations which must necessarily fall in to accomplish completely, and to that end my efforts will go out.

I have, therefore, arrived at the conclusion that my long experience gained in the service of the Fire Department places upon me the duty of putting that experience at the immediate disposal of the public in order that it may be applied to the prevention of fire, and I am hopeful that the coming years of my active life will leave behind them a record of public good, accomplished in that direction.

With that object in view, my experience and intimate knowledge of men thoroughly tried in that direction, now honorably retired officers, I am confident that I can be of more service out of the department in protecting life and property than here, for I will have a greater field of activity and usefulness, as well as opportunity, to carry out my ideas, which, if enabled to do, I am sure will prevent a repetition of the late disasters which have startled the world.

New Chief's Salary \$7,000.

With the retirement of Mr. Croker the salary of the chief of the Department was fixed at \$7,000 a year, \$500 less than the salary of the Deputy Chief, who is \$7,500 a year.

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JOHN KENYON

all along that Chief Croker was going to resign, adding that when the Chief called today and stated that "the plan had now matured and he was ready to resign," the Mayor understood the situation fully. Further than this the Mayor would say nothing.

The colored man is employed by an auctioneer named Seligman, who has a place of business at No. 10 West Twenty-ninth street. Davis lives at No. 122 West Twenty-ninth street. This afternoon about 3 o'clock Miss Seligman, who acts as bookkeeper for her father, sent Davis out to buy her some candy. He went to Twenty-ninth street and Sixth avenue. While turning the corner the Rutherford man, a friend—Casidy of No. 319 Seventh avenue—bumped into him.

Davis and the police say that both Harris and Casidy were intoxicated. Davis says that they reviled him with references to his color. He said nothing, but ran back to the Seligman stable and got a .38 calibre revolver.

Going back to the corner he looked for Harris and Casidy. They saw him and turned on him again. Policeman O'Leary, who was across the street, said afterward that Casidy lunged for Davis, whereat Davis pulled his gun. Then Harris jumped in between and got a bullet in the left breast that pierced his heart.

A Rush at the Colored Man.

Policeman O'Leary sprang across the street just as a score of white men rushed for the negro. O'Leary struck the gun from his hand, struck him down with his club and stood over him. Every white man nearby tried to get at the negro and there were shouts of "lynch him" ringing from every side when the other policemen arrived.

Casidy was arrested as a witness, and the prisoner was surrounded and dragged through a yelling crowd to the Tenderloin station. Harris's body was taken to the station house. His identity was established by a communication ticket in his pocket. Casidy was only a casual acquaintance.

Very unexpectedly Police Commissioner Crosey was called late this afternoon as a witness before the March Grand Jury to explain why he had failed to make a decision in the case of Inspector "Ginger" O'Brien, who was tried months ago on charges at Headquarters.

When the Grand Jury resumed its investigations of crime and police conditions at 2 o'clock several high-up police officials were waiting to be examined by Assistant District Attorney Frank Moss and Special Prosecutor George Gordon Battle, who are in charge of the inquiry.

Prominent among these witnesses were Deputy Commissioner John J. Walsh, who brought with him from Headquarters the minutes in the O'Brien trial; Inspector George Titus, Capt. Patrick Corcoran of the East One Hundred and Fourth street station, whose framed photograph was recently found on the walls of a raided gambling house and in whose precinct the Gas House bands flourish; Capt. William Day of Bridge street, Capt. Sylvester Baldwin of Charles street, whose district includes the waterfront of Chelsea, where so many robberies of sailors have been reported; and Capt. James McNally of West Forty-seventh street, who had with him records to show that in two years more than four hundred complaints of vandalism and thievery by youthful delinquents had been recorded.

Seven citizen witnesses were also on hand—all of them victims of burglaries or highway robberies for which no one has ever been arrested.

Mr. Walsh was the first man to be questioned. He was asked what had become of the O'Brien case, regarding which there have been only rumors. He answered that after reviewing the evidence he had made his report with a specific recommendation to the Grand Jury. He couldn't explain of his own knowledge, he said, why the Commissioner had failed to act upon the findings submitted by him. On hearing this the grand jurors at once called for the presence of Commissioner Crosey.

While waiting for him to come from his office the jurors listened to the story of Henry Liska, a Jeweler of No. 22 Bridge street, who still bore the marks of punishment inflicted upon him by robbers a few days ago. In the midst of his testimony Liska told in a loud voice:

Mr. Crosey received the Criminal Justice Building at 123 who was at once escorted to the Grand Jury room.

Testimony on Greek Lines.

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WHITE MAN SHOT DOWN BY NEGRO DRIVER

Killing of John Harris by George Davis Starts Riot on West Side.

POLICE SAVE SLAYER.

Victim, Who Lived in Rutherford, N. J., Alleged to Have Started the Row.

John Harris of Rutherford, N. J., was shot and killed in view of scores of persons near Sixth avenue and Twenty-ninth street this afternoon by George Davis, a colored truck driver, whom he had reviled after bumping into him. Davis was arrested by Policeman O'Leary of the Tenderloin station, who witnessed the shooting. Only the presence of half a dozen policemen in the immediate neighborhood prevented a race riot and Davis was dragged to the Tenderloin station through yelling, fighting crowds of blacks and whites.

Bumped Into Him.

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